



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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July 17, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wendy L. Watanabe", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – SOUTH BAY
BRIGHT FUTURE, INC. – MESA, PACIFIC AND HARBOR CITY GROUP
HOMES**

We have completed a review of Mesa, Pacific and Harbor City Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by South Bay Bright Future, Inc. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department.

The three Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring review, Pacific Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children and Mesa and Harbor City Group Homes were each providing services for six DCFS children.

All three Group Homes are located in the Fourth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of our review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, employee records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the

review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address a few deficient areas. Specifically, all three Group Homes need to develop comprehensive and specific Needs and Services Plans. In addition, Pacific and Harbor City Group Homes need to maintain court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medications.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

WLW:MMO:JET:DC:AA:CC:jdh

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Ted Myers, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
William Hill, PhD, Executive Director, South Bay Bright Future, Inc.
Dannetta Watts-Waters, Board President, South Bay Bright Future, Inc.
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**South Bay Bright Future, Inc.
Mesa Group Home
San Pedro, California 90731
License Number: 191671009
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Mesa Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean, orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, the beds all have a full complement of linens, and the children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

None.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement, are assessed for needed services within 30 days of placement, and are adequately receiving treatment services.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child and the NSPs are current. However, the NSPs are not comprehensive.

Recommendation

- 1. South Bay Bright Future Group Home management develop and maintain comprehensive and specific Needs and Services Plans.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school, are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills. Children are also provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

None.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which

they have an interest. The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

None.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

None.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, have private visitors and attend religious services of their choice.

The discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children are satisfied with the meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

None.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes and the clothing provided is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance and the children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home also provides children with adequate personal care items. The children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

None.

VIII. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Sample size for employee record evaluation: Four

Comments:

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation

None.

**South Bay Bright Future, Inc.
Pacific Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90731
License Number: 198200139
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Pacific Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, the beds all have a full complement of linens, and the children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

None.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement, are assessed for needed services within 30 days of placement, and are adequately receiving treatment services.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child and the NSPs are current. However, the NSPs are not comprehensive.

Recommendation

1. South Bay Bright Future Group Home management develop and maintain comprehensive and specific Needs and Services Plans.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school, are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills. Children are also provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

None.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest. The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

None.

V. Psychotropic Medication**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

The medication distribution logs are properly maintained. The children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist, are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication. However, the children do not have current court authorizations for the psychotropic medications they are taking.

Recommendation

2. South Bay Bright Future Group Home management maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medications.

VI. Personal Rights**Method of assessment – Interviews with children****Sample size: Two****Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, have private visitors and attend religious services of their choice.

The discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children are satisfied with the meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

None.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size: Two****Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes and the clothing provided is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance and the children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home also provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation**None.****VIII. Personnel Background Checks****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Sample size for employee record evaluation: Three****Comments:**

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation**None.**

**South Bay Bright Future, Inc.
Harbor City Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90710
License Number: 198205582
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Harbor City Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, the beds all have a full complement of linens, and the children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

None.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

The children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement, are assessed for needed services within 30 days of placement, and are adequately receiving treatment services.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child and the NSPs are current. However, the NSPs are not comprehensive.

Recommendation

- 1. South Bay Bright Future Group Home management develop and maintain comprehensive and specific Needs and Services Plans.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school, are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills. Children are also provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

None.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest. The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

None.

V. Psychotropic Medication**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

The medication distribution logs are properly maintained. The children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist, are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication. However, the children do not have current court authorizations for the psychotropic medications they are taking.

Recommendation

2. South Bay Bright Future Group Home management maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medications.

VI. Personal Rights**Method of assessment – Interviews with children**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, have private visitors and attend religious services of their choice.

The discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children are satisfied with the meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

None.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size: Two****Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes and the clothing provided is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance and the children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home also provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining life books/photo albums.

Recommendation**None.****VIII. Personnel Background Checks****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Sample size for employee record evaluation: Four****Comments:**

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation**None.**

South Bay Bright Future, Inc.

24404 South Vermont Avenue, Suite 201
Harbor City, California 90710
Phone: (310) 891-0098 Fax: (310) 891-0195

January 30, 2009

To: Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor
County of Los Angeles Department of Auditor-Controller
Children's Group Home Ombudsman Division
350 S. Figueroa Street, 8th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90071

From: LeVetta Hill, Administrator

Re: Corrective Action Plan for South Bay Bright Future, Inc.

This Corrective Action Plan Revision is written in response to South Bay Bright Future's Group Home Audit results dated November 24, 2008.

II. Program Services

Recommendations for: Mesa Group Home, License Number: 1916671009;
Pacific Group Home, License Number: 198200139 and Harbor City Group Home,
License Number: 198205582

South Bay Bright Future Group Home management needs to develop and maintain Needs and Services Plan that are comprehensive and specific.

• **Status:**

Implemented

South Bay Bright Future has incorporated the recommendations given by the Auditor Controller on improving the Needs and Services plans. The Administrator has also consulted with the Department of Children and Family Services' - Out of Home Care Monitor regarding the Needs and Services Plans and have implemented his recommendations. Furthermore, South Bay Bright Future has requested technical support from the Out of Home Care Monitor to help ensure the recommendations have been properly implemented.

- Plan to prevent recurrence:

South Bay Bright Future will continue to provide and maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans for each resident. In addition, shall ensure each Needs and Services Plan is specific, attainable, realistic, with time limits and long and short term goals. A monthly administrative review has been implemented to ensure the Needs and Services Plans are in keeping all contractual requirements of the DCFS Group Home Contract and General Licensing Requirements, Title 22, division 6.

- Person(s) to prevent recurrence:

Quality Assurance Consultant and Administrator

- Person(s) responsible for monitoring to ensure corrective action remains implemented and is working as intended:

Quality Assurance Consultant and Administrator

V. Psychotropic Medication

Recommendation for: Harbor City Home, License Number: 198205582 and Pacific Group Home, License Number: 198200139

South Bay Bright Future Group Home management needs to obtain and maintain court authorizations for children who are prescribed psychotropic medication.

- Status:

Implemented

All residents who have been prescribed psychotropic medication have current court authorization.

- Plan to prevent recurrence:

South Bay Bright Future shall maintain current court authorization for all children prescribed psychotropic medication. A monthly administrative review and consultation with the prescribing physician has been implemented.

- Person(s) to prevent recurrence:

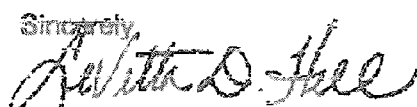
Quality Assurance Consultant and Administrator

- Person(s) responsible for monitoring to ensure corrective action remains implemented and is working as intended:

Quality Assurance Consultant and Administrator

The above Corrective Action Plans are respectfully submitted for your review. If additional information is required, please contact me at (310) 721-5204, thank you.

Sincerely,



Leleita D. Hill

Administrator